CM /ECF

ELECTRONIC CASE FILES



Volume One, Number Three

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Redacting Personal Information

Counsel is reminded that, per the General Order dated 05/29/2003, personal identifiers must be not included in documents that are filed with the Court and which are NOT filed under seal. According to the General Order, these identifiers are:

Social Security numbers. If an individual's social security number must be included in a pleading, only the last four digits of that number should be used.

Names of minor children. If the involvement of a minor child must be mentioned, only the initials of that child should be used.

Dates of birth. If an individual's date of birth must be included in a pleading, only the year should be used.

Financial account numbers. If financial account numbers are relevant, only the last four digits of these numbers should be used.

The responsibility for redacting this information rests solely with the filer. Remember, documents filed electronically are available to the public via PACER.

The <u>General Order</u>, *Public Access to Electronic Case Files*, can be found on the WAWD website.

TRAINING CLASSES

At the US District Courthouse, 700 Stewart, Seattle

May 18, 1 - 3 pm June 7, 10 - 12 pm

At the US District Courthouse, 1717 Pacific Ave, Tacoma

> May 12, 9 - 11 am AND 1 - 3 pm June 9, 9 - 11 am AND 1 - 3 pm



To pre-register for classes, please call the:

ECF Help Desk (866) 323-9293

Important Notice

The CM-ECF system will be unavailable from

May 13, 6 pm - May 16, 6 am

Plan your filings ahead.

The NEW PDF Stamp

One of the new features of Version 2.4 of the CM-ECF system is the inclusion of the PDF stamp on documents filed. This header includes the case number, the filing date, and the docket number. This is an optional feature, and may be turned "off" by the external user. To do this, go to "Utilities" in the blue menu bar, then "Maintain Your Account." In the "User Account" screen uncheck the box "Add Headers to PDF Documents," then click "Submit."

To use a previously filed document as an attachment that already has a PDF header, do this:

- Turn off the PDF header feature (as described above).
- 2. Open the document to be used as an attachment.
- 3. Save the document to your computer.
- 4. Finally, return to the "Maintain Your Account" screen and turn on the PDF header as described above.



" I just filed a document with information that should have been redacted.

What should I do?"

If personal information is inadvertently included in an electronic filing, counsel can re-file a redacted version of the document using the special event, Redacted Document found in the category Other Documents. After the redacted document is filed electronically, the clerk of the court will restrict access to the initial filing that contains the personal identifiers. For more information, see the General Order dated 05/29/2003.

Tips and Tricks



When filing two documents one after another, simply click on either "Civil" or "Criminal" in the blue menu bar. This will clear the system so that you can begin your next filing. Do NOT use the browser's "Back" button.

Remember that a filer has only 15 days to access the "free peek." Following that time,

when the Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) recipient clicks on the number hyperlink, he/she will be prompted for the PACER login and password.

Changing the e-mail addresses of support staff who receive Notices of Electronic Filing is a simple process.

- 1. After signing in to the CM-ECF system, click on "Utilities" in the blue menu bar.
- 2. Click on "Maintain Your Account"
- 3. At the bottom of the account information screen, click on the "Email Information" button.
- Check the box next to the phrase "to these secondary email addresses" and enter the email addresses of support staff <u>separated with commas</u>. Do NOT uncheck the box "to my primary e-mail address."
- 5. Click on the button "Return to Account Screen" AND then the "Submit" button on the next screen.

